

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1651

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 1378

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, GY

SUBJECT: PPP CONTINUES TO ATTACK US BASE AGREEMENT

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN A-74, JULY 10, 1975 (B) LETTER
KREBS/HEAVNER AUGUST 12, 1975

SUMMARY: MOSCOW-LINE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE
PARTY, PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION
GROUP, IN OBVIOUS EFFORT TO EMBARRASS RULING PNC, HAS CONTINUED
ITS RECENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST 1966 BASE AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR EMER-
GENCY U.S. MILITARY USE OF TIMEHRI AIRPORT (EX-ATKINSON FIELD) AND
U.S. MILITARY OVERFLIGHT OF GUYANA. NO REACTION SO FAR FROM PNC OR
GOG, BUT WE SHOULD ANALYZE UTILITY BASE RIGHTS, SO AS TO PRE-EMPT
OR APPROPRIATELY REACT TO POSSIBLE MOVE TO ABROGATE TREATY BY GOG.
END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

LEAD ARTICLE OF PPP'S DAILY MIRROR ON SUNDAY AUGUST 17 CONTINUED
RECENTLY LAUNCHED ATTACK ON U.S. GUYANA BASE AND OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENT
AS FOLLOWS:

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PPP GENERAL SECRETARY, DR. CHEDDI JAGAN IS URGING THAT THE GUYANESE ROAD TO SOCIALISM BE PROPERLY CHARTED: POINTING OUT THAT THERE ARE MANY SHOALS TO BE ENCOUNTERED ON COURSE HE SINGLED OUT THE MOST DANGEROUS SHOAL AS THE SECRET MILITARY DEAL MADE BY THE PNC GOVT WITH THE U.S. IMPERIALISTS IN 1966. HE CALLED FOR THE IMMEDIATE ABROGATION OF THE SUICIDAL TREATY, IN A PRESS STATEMENT YESTERDAY DR. JAGAN SAID (SIC).

AT THE PPP'S PRESS CONFERENCE LAST SATURDAY, ONE OF THE QUESTIONS ASKED, QUERIED THE USE OF THE PHRASE "A DAGGER POINTED AT THE HEART OF GUYANA" TO DESCRIBE THE RIGHT OF U.S. AIRCRAFT TO OVERFLY GUYANA AND TO STATION PERSONNEL AT TIMEHRI AIRPORT (FORMERLY ATKINSON FIELD).

THE SECRET AGREEMENT BETWEEN GUYANA AND THE U.S. IN 1966 PROVIDES NOT ONLY FOR THESE FACILITIES, BUT ALSO TO STORE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, OPERATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES AND SERVICE AND MAINTAIN AIRCRAFT AT ATKINSON FIELD (NOW TIMEHRI AIRPORT); FURTHER TO INSTALL ADDITIONAL OR IMPROVE EXISTING EQUIPMENT AT ATKINSON FIELD FOR NAVIGATION, TRAFFIC CONTROL OR OTHER AGREED PURPOSES.

ONLY THE POLITICALLY MYOPIC WILL NOT SEE THE DANGERS INHERENT IN THIS BASES AGREEMENT, A HANGOVER FROM THE COLONIAL DESTROYERS-FOR-BASES DEAL DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

EVEN PRIME MINISTER, DR. ERIC WILLIAMS, WHOM NO ONE WOULD DESCRIBE AS A SOCIALIST, MADE IT A POINT, SOON AFTER THE PM TOOK OFFICE IN TRINIDAD IN 1956, TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE RETURN OF THE CHAGUARAMAS BASE AND OTHER LANDS LEASED TO THE U.S. BY THE BRITISH COLONIAL POWER. HE ARGUED THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS INVALID AS IT HAD NOT BEEN RATIFIED BY THE TRINIDAD PARLIAMENT.

THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES MEETING IN GEORGETOWN IN AUGUST 1972, AT WHICH CUBA WAS REPRESENTED BY ITS FOREIGN MINISTER, REITERATED THE DEMAND FOR THE DISMANTLING OF ALL FOREIGN MILITARY BASES IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD INCLUDING ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA, PARTICULARLY THOSE ESTABLISHED OR MAINTAINED AGAINST THE EXPRESSED WISH OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED.

FURTHER, IN THE CUBA-GUYANA JOINT COMMUNIQUE, ISSUED AT THE
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CONCLUSION OF THE VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, CDE. L.F.S. BURNHAM TO CUBA FROM APRIL 7-11, 1975, THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION APPEARED "BOTH DELEGATIONS SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLES OF THE CARIBBEAN TO LIQUIDATE THE LAST VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM IN OUR CONTINENT AND PUT AN END TO METROPOLITAN PRESENCES IN THE AREA. THEY REITERATE THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE AREA".

THAT THE DESCRIPTION COULD BE QUERIED AT ALL DISPLAYED A LAMENTABLE LACK OF POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION. THE QUESTIONER MADE IT WORSE BY SUGGESTING THAT THE PPP, IN CALLING FOR THE ABROGATION OF THE SECRET GUYANA-US BASES DEAL, WAS SOMEHOW INCONSISTENT BECAUSE THE U.S. STILL OCCUPIES GUANTANAMO, AT THE WESTERN END OF CUBA. HE APPARENTLY ASSUMES THAT THE CUBAN GOVT HAS NOT, TIME AND AGAIN, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WANTED THE YANKEES TO SURRENDER THE BASE.

THE REACTIONARY POSITION TAKEN UP BY SO MANY AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AND THE COMPLETE FAILURE TO DESTROY A SINGLE POINT MADE IN THE PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY PRESS STATEMENT OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY POLICY STATEMENT "CRITICAL SUPPORT" SHOWS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR THE PPP TO BE GIVEN RADIO TIME AND PRESS COVERAGE SO THAT THE REALITIES CAN BE MORE FORCIBLY AND CORRECTLY BROUGHT HOME TO THE PEOPLE, AND ROAD TO SOCIALISM PROPERLY CHARTED.

THE SECRET MILITARY DEAL, APART FROM ENDANGERING GUYANA'S SECURITY, MAKES A MOCKERY OF ITS NON-ALIGNED STATUS. SINCE IT HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY PARLIAMENT, STEPS MUST BE TAKEN TO TERMINATE IT.
END QUOTE

END UNCLASSIFIED

COMMENT: THIS ISSUE WAS FIRST RAISED BY SMALL LEFT-RADICAL WORKING PEOPLES' ALLIANCE IN OPEN LETTER TO PM BURNHAM ON JULY 2, (REFAIR). PPP HAS FOLLOWED UP TWICE IN MIRROR AND ONCE IN JAGAN'S SPEECH TO RECENT PPP CONVENTION. INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION SUBSIDIZED CARIBBEAN CONTACT, WITH ITS CUSTOMARY ANTI-U.S. ZEAL, HAS JOINED THE ATTACK. PURPOSE OF PPP CAMPAIGN IS OBVIOUSLY TO EMBARRASS RULING PNC AT TIME OF ITS CONVENTION WITH FOREIGN COMMUNIST DELEGATES PRESENT. THUS FAR, ATTACK HAS PROVOKED NO PUBLIC REACTION FROM GOG AND NO SIGN OF INTEREST FROM MAN IN STREET. NO GOG OR PNC OFFICIAL
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HAS THUS FAR BROACHED MATTER TO EMBASSY. HOWEVER, AS CAMPAIGN CONTINUES, RENUNCIATION OF AGREEMENT WITH OR WITHOUT FOREWARNING WOULD SEEM TO BE IN KEEPING WITH BURNHAM'S ANTI-IMPERIALIST AND INCREASINGLY RADICAL MARXIST-LENINIST STANCE IN IDENTIFYING INTERESTS OF GUYANA WITH THOSE OF COMMUNIST NATIONS. AMBASSADOR RECOMMENDED IN LETTER OF AUGUST 12, 1975, TO HEAVNER, ARA/CAR, THAT USG REVIEW CONTINGENCY MILITARY NEED FOR BASE AND EFFECT OF POSSIBLE TERMINATION OF AGREEMENT AT OUR INITIATIVE ON OTHER BASE RIGHTS IN CARIBBEAN.
MATTHEWS

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